REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed February 11, 2003 (Paper No. 13). Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and following remarks are courteously requested.

Claims 1-67 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 18, 35, 60, 58 and 64 being the independent claims. Claim 64 has been amended. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Before proceeding to the merits of the Office Action, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Lam for pointing out that at least Claims 1-63 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 64-67 were rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,329,603 (Ballard). This rejection is respectfully traversed, at least in light of the above amendments.

Independent Claim 64 relates to a modular rectifier circuit for rectifying one phase of a multi-phase AC signal generated in a plurality of exciter armature windings wound on an exciter hub that is configured to rotate about a rotational axis in a multi-pole high speed generator. The rectifier circuit includes a base that has one or more rectifier circuit components mounted on a first surface and recites, *inter alia*, said base being dimensioned to removably mount within the exciter hub in a configuration whereby the first surface is in a plane that does not intersect the rotational axis.

Ballard relates to a rectifier assembly for use in a brushless AC generator. The rectifier assembly (22) includes a plurality of diode wafers (60, 62) mounted on a surface of a conductive shell (58) that is inserted within a housing (18) of the generator exciter rotor. The surface on which the diode wafers are mounted is perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the exciter (see FIGS. 1, and 4-6; Claims 1 and 3).

Hence, it is submitted that Ballard fails to disclose, or even remotely suggest, at least the above-noted feature recited in independent Claim 64. Namely, this citation fails to disclose that the surface on which one or more of the rectifier circuit components are mounted does not intersect the exciter hub rotational axis. Indeed, Ballard explicitly discloses the opposite.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully solicited.

Based on the above, independent Claim 64 is patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims 65-67 are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to independent Claim 64 and because each recites features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 21, 2003

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